

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
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1. All East German enterprises were required to forward an original sample, as well as samples from current production, to the appropriate testing office (Pruefdienststelle) of the Material and Merchandise Testing Board (Deutsches Amt fuer Material- und Warenpruefung) (DAMW). This order applied to both raw materials and serial production of every industrial item. The results of the DAMW tests were expressed by three triangular marks, which either had no number or had number 1 or 2, to indicate grades of quality.
2. This procedure was considered a mere formality and, on orders from the respective ministries, production actually continued unaffected by the test results and recommendations of the DAMW. The ministries acted under orders of the State Planning Commission, which insisted on the fulfillment of planned quotas. For example, in 1952, a rolling mill produced 140 percent of its quota, and prized and activist honors were given to its staff, although the DAMW test showed that only 25 percent of the amount produced came up to the minimum quality standards, and the remainder had to be rejected. Yet reports prepared by the DAMW, when compared with reports of the respective office of the State Planning Commission, invariably showed that, disregarding all DAMW recommendations, production continued unchanged. The opinions of the DAMW experts, most of whom were well-known authorities who could not as yet be removed, were rather frank, and responsible section heads could not be induced to decrease the quality standards. If necessary, they preferred to deny all responsibility for future production in signed statements.

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